

faith and practice, let us examine them and see.

WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES?

Let us see if they bear out assertions of modern teachers. If they do not it is because "there is no light in them." In examining this as in examining all there subjects let our motto, "the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible" be emphasized, and we shall obtain the right conclusions.

Turning then to Isa. v, 5-10, we read as follows "My word * * * shall not return unto me void but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." Evidently God's purpose and plans shall be fully carried out. Neither the devil nor the unfaithfulness of man can thwart them. God has a plan of work for his servants of this dispensation and he has chosen those that will carry it out.

In the first place, then, we ask, Had his purpose been such he would undoubtedly have carried it out. This word accomplishes what he pleases. While it is not his will that any should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. ii, 4.) And while the angel in announcing the birth of Christ said, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. (Luke ii, 10) It is nowhere said that this knowledge, these good tidings of great joy shall be in this dispensation.

If, then, God has not planned the enlightenment of the world in the dispensation, much less its conversion, shall we say that hundreds of thousands of souls are perishing, because men have not carried the Gospel to them, and because they have not light? Such conclusions arrived at by professors of Christianity are hinderances to the cause of Christ, and are doing more to break down the influence of the Gospel than all the works of Ingersol, Paine and Voltaire together. Moreover they are insults to God and picture him unjust and partial. God is no respecter of persons, and condemns none without opportunity. "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. x, 14.) Christ gave himself a ransom for all, and will testify it

to all in due time. The earth shall eventually be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (1 Tim. ii, 6) (Hab. ii, 14.) And God, then as now, will measure men, not according to the actions of others but according to their own actions, coupled with light "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light." (Jno. iii, 19.)

Righteousness saves men; sin destroys men, as there can be no righteousness without light and compliance: neither can there be any sin without light and transgression. "He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin." "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin." (Jam. iv, 17. Jno. xv, 22) Every one (that dies) shall die for his own iniquity. (Jer. xxxi, 30.) God has planned a thorough testimony of the Gospel in this dispensation. Therefore no one will perish because of a lack of such testimony. His word was to be preached to all nations for a witness for the purpose of selecting a little flock—a Christ body that should inherit the kingdom and it shall prosper in the thing whereto it was sent. His plans have not and shall not be defeated but are gradually and surely being executed. This Gospel is now being witnessed, and the little flock is being chosen—chosen according to worthiness as God designed.

Hear Paul on this phase of the subject. How emphatic he is. "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. (Acts xv, 14.) These people then take Christ's name. They constitute the church which is his (Christ's) body Eph i, 22, 23. Col. i, 18, and unite with their head [Christ] They shall live and reign king's and priests for a thousand years. Rev. xxv, 4, 6. Then shall the sons of God be manifested to the groaning creation—the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the sea—the ransom be thoroughly testified—and the good tidings of great joy be to all people.

THEN AND NOT TILL THEN

shall Christ [head and body] take his

great power and reign, enlightening all people and banishing all sin, for "he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet" Such is God's plan for the blessing of Abraham's seed (Christ) [head and body] Gal. iii, 16, 29. And all the families of the earth. Such being the care we can readily see that while it is not expected that we should at present enlighten much less course the world. We nevertheless have a great work to perform of testifying the ransom for a witness. If we would attain to blessing due to the little flock, we must become a member of that flock we must be faithful and consecrated. We must make the Lord's business our business and esteem the salvation of our souls of more importance than gold, silver, precious stones or rubies, and "laying aside every weight and hinderance and the sin which doth so easily beset us press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling * * * of God in Christ Jesus."

BARNUM ON PREACHERS.

P. T. Barnum, the great showman, was a strong total abstainer, and a man who had respect for the Christian religion.

"Are you a preacher?" asked a man derisively one day.

"No," said the showman; "but I believe in morality—I likewise believe in meetin'-houses. Show me a place where there are not any meetin' houses, and where preachers are never seen, and I'll show you a place where old hats are stuffed into the windows, where the gates have no hinges, where the women are slipshod, and where maps of the devil's wild land are printed on men's shirt bosoms with tobacco-juice—that's what I'll show you. Let's consider what the preachers do for us, sir, before we abuse them."

Christ wants you now. Do not wait to become older. It is easier to give your hearts to Jesus and commence to live for Him now than it will when you are older. Every day of delay may take you farther from the Savior. Those that "seek early" have special promises of success in finding. Christ wants you now—every one of you who read this. Ask him to forgive your sins, however small they may be, for every little sin needs forgiveness, and He alone can give this. Give yourself to Jesus now, and when you have done this help your companions to do the same.